(d) whether there is any time limit for conclusion of the inquiry; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) and (b) The Government is considering to bring in a fresh legislation on the subject of judicial standards and accountability of Judges.

(c) to (e) An enquiry Committee under the provisions of the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968 has been constituted by the Chairman, Rajya Sabha which is looking into the records. Rule 9 (2) (c) of the Judges (Inquiry) Rules, 1969 requires the Inquiry Committee to forward its report within three months from the date of service of the charges framed under sub-section (3) of Section 3 of the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968. This time limit can, however, be extended for sufficient causes.

Misuse of 498 A of IPC

3481. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many reports come to Government regarding the misuse of section 498 A of the Indian Penal Code;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action Government has taken to prevent misuse of the above section?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (c) A number of representations have been received from various quarters regarding the misuse of the provision of Section 498 A of IPC. Information regarding its misuse is not collected by National Crime Records Bureau. An Advisory has been issued to the State Governments to prevent the misuse of the said Section.

Restriction on regional parties to contest elections

3482. SHRI R.C. SINGH:
SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:
Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a P1L was filed in the Supreme Court with a request to issue a Writ of Mandamus and direct the Central Government to pass a law and allow only national parties to contest Lok Sabha elections and regional parties be allowed to contest State elections;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any view has been taken by Government in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.